

#### IN THE LAUNDRY ROOM

- ✓ Run the clothes washer with full loads only.

#### OUTDOORS

- ✓ Adjust sprinklers so that they are level, the right height and spray the right direction and eliminate runoff into the gutter.
- ✓ Put a layer of mulch down in the garden to keep soil moisture in and weeds out.
- ✓ Adjust the sprinkler timer as the weather changes.
- ✓ Install a rain shut-off sensor on your automatic sprinkler system.
- ✓ Sweep pavement and driveways instead of hosing them down.
- ✓ Water at night or early morning to prevent excessive evaporation.
- ✓ Don't water when windy or raining.
- ✓ Avoid overwatering. Every 3rd day is usually enough.
- ✓ Use a shutoff valve on hoses.
- ✓ Use an automatic shutoff nozzle when washing cars or go to a water recycling car wash.
- ✓ Check your pool and equipment for leaks.
- ✓ Cover swimming pools to reduce evaporation.

#### OTHER TIPS

- ✓ Call your water supplier to see what assistance they may be able to give. Some water suppliers offer water wise house calls, rebates & free water saving devices.
- ✓ Fix leaks and problems with plumbing and irrigation equipment.

#### LONG-TERM ACTIONS

- ✓ Replace water-using appliances such as dishwashers and clothes washers with high-efficiency Energy Star models that save energy and use less water.
- ✓ Plant drought tolerant trees and shrubs.
- ✓ Reduce the size of your lawn area.
- ✓ Replace worn and inefficient sprinklers with more efficient equipment.

for more tips on how to conserve, visit  
DWR's Office of Water Use Efficiency & Transfers  
web site at **[WWW.OWUE.WATER.CA.GOV](http://WWW.OWUE.WATER.CA.GOV)**



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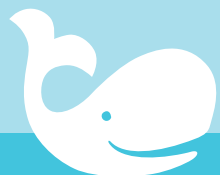
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# Conserving California's Water



Over 160 years ago, miners fervently competed for California's gold. As the state has evolved, a different natural resource has become as precious as gold – water. California is extremely rich with human, animal, agricultural, natural and urban life; all rely on water. Water cannot be manufactured; like all valued resources, it must be used wisely.

California is the most populous state in the nation and the seventh largest economy in the world. California's water supply is the underlying support of the natural beauty and industries that attract people to this great state. As California's population and industries grow, so does water use.



## For More Information

### California Department of Water Resources

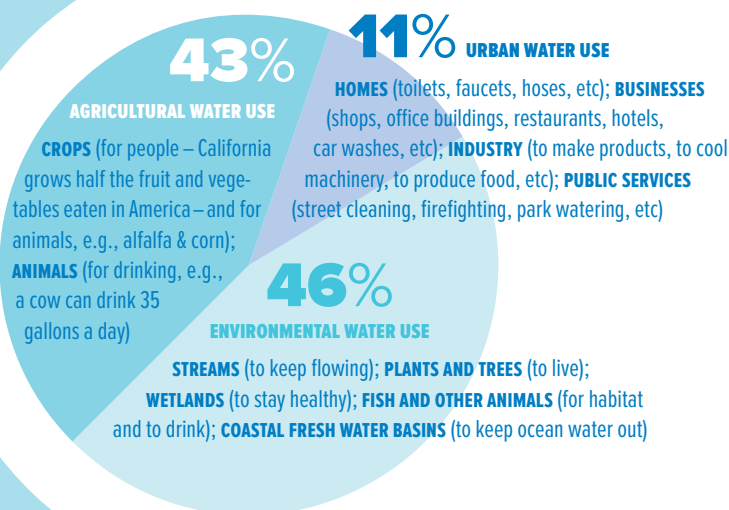
1416 9th Street / Sacramento CA 95814  
tel 916.653.5791 • [www.water.ca.gov](http://www.water.ca.gov)

### California Environmental Protection Agency, Emergency Response and Disaster Preparedness

tel 916.323.2514 • [www.calepa.ca.gov/disaster/drought](http://www.calepa.ca.gov/disaster/drought)

## California's Water Use

Californians use all the water available to use. Extra water is even brought into California from other states. Here's where the water goes:



Supplying so much water to everyone who needs it is not easy or inexpensive.

About 75% of the rain and snow in California falls in the northern part of the state. But about 75% of the people live in the central and southern parts of the state, so the water must be moved to where it is needed.

### California Urban Water Conservation Council

716 10th street, Suite 200 / Sacramento CA 95814  
tel 916.552.5885 • [www.cuwcc.org](http://www.cuwcc.org)

### Water Education Foundation, Free Programs and Information

717 K Street, Suite 317 / Sacramento CA 95814  
tel 916.444.6240 • [www.watereducation.org](http://www.watereducation.org)

## Even when water is abundant, it must be conserved

as periods of drought and wildfires are common in California. Droughts and wildfires go hand in hand, impacting water quality and the environment. On February 27, 2009, the Governor declared a State of Emergency for the current drought cycle\* which began in 2007. For more information on the drought, visit [WWW.CALEPA.CA.GOV/DISASTER/DROUGHT](http://WWW.CALEPA.CA.GOV/DISASTER/DROUGHT). Incorporating water-saving practices into people's daily lives can collectively help to alleviate the stress of drought.

Here are some water-saving steps suggested by the California Department of Water Resources to help you do your part to conserve:

### IN THE KITCHEN

- ✓ Keep a pitcher of water in the fridge for cold drinking water instead of running water until it cools.
- ✓ Wash fruits and vegetables in a bowl instead of under running water.
- ✓ Thaw foods in the fridge, not under running water.
- ✓ Install aerators on faucets to reduce flow.
- ✓ Wash full loads in the dishwasher.

### IN THE BATHROOM

- ✓ Turn off the faucet when brushing teeth or shaving.
- ✓ Install low-flow showerheads or those that can be turned off while soaping up.
- ✓ Check toilets for leaks by placing food coloring in the tank; if color shows up in the bowl without flushing, there is a leak, most likely with the flapper valve.
- ✓ Replace gaskets, flapper valve or other worn parts in toilets.
- ✓ Take shorter showers and shallow baths.
- ✓ Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket.
- ✓ Replace old toilets with new low-flush models. Your local water supplier may offer rebates and incentives for new toilets.

\*A drought cycle is defined as a temporary & repetitive phase of drier conditions in an otherwise favorable environment.